



H.R. 6965 – To extend the authorization of the national flood insurance program, and for other purposes

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 6965 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Barney Frank (D-MA) on September 18, 2008. The resolution was referred to the Committee on Financial Services, but was never considered.

H.R. 6965 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 23, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 6965 extends the authorization of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) through April 30, 2009.

BACKGROUND

Under current law, the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is set to expire on September 30, 2008. In recent months, there has been extensive flooding in parts of the Midwest, especially Iowa, as well as in regions affected by Hurricanes Ike and Gustav.

In 2007, the House passed H.R. 3121, The Flood Insurance Reform and Modernization Act of 2007, by a vote of 263-146. This bill would have authorized the NFIP for an additional five years. The bill also included a number of important reforms. The bill, however, significantly would have expanded the NFIP by mandating it offer windstorm coverage. The Senate also passed its version of this bill in May 2008, by a vote of 92-6. Although conferees were appointed by the Speaker, no conference report was produced.

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) was established in 1968 to reduce the risk of catastrophic flood damage through floodplain management, improve risk assessment through flood mapping, and promote flood insurance coverage and construction standards to guard against future damages. The NFIP is administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

NFIP currently provides coverage to more than 5 million people. Since the 2005 hurricane season, the NFIP has accumulated approximately \$18 billion in debt to cover its claims, leading the General Accounting Office to include it in its list of federal programs highly vulnerable "to fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement."

[FEMA- National Flood Insurance Program](#)

COST

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has not produced a cost estimate for H.R. 6965 as of September 23, 2008.

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Adam Hepburn at 6-2302.